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IN THE U.S. PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANT: Reiji TAMURA et al. CONF.: 5600
SERIAL NO: 09/601,103 GROUP: 1774
FILED: July 27, 2000 EXAMINER: L. Ferguson
FOR: INFORMATION RECORDING MEDIUM

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

February 6, 2002

Sir:

In response to the Examiner's Office Action dated November 6, 2001, the following amendments and remarks are respectfully submitted in connection with the above-identified application.

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 6, line 6, with the following rewritten paragraph:

B1
--On the other hand, in case the changing amount of the nitrogen content is increased with the interface between the films as a boundary, the change of the nitrogen content becomes more discontinuous, and, hence, formation of the crystal nuclei is further accelerated. In this case, failure in overwriting after exposure to a severe environment is not seen, but since the crystal nuclei are formed in excess, there is caused a problem that the once recorded information erases after exposure to a severe environment. Therefore,